

# Retiree News & NOTES



STATE RETIREMENT  
and PENSION SYSTEM  
of MARYLAND

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A Newsletter for Retirees from the State Retirement & Pension System of Maryland

## Regularly sent advice slips being phased out

Starting this Fall, the monthly advice slips that are sent to you at the end of the month will only be mailed at certain times.

Retirees will receive a mailed advice slip only:

- With their first benefit payment upon retirement,
- In January and July of each year, and
- When the monthly payment amount increases or decreases. Changes to the payment amount occur, for example, when the retiree alters the tax withholdings or with changes in the cost of the deductions.



With your advice slips mailed in January and July, you'll receive an information-packed issue of *Retiree News & Notes* filled with the latest news from the Retirement Agency. If important concerns arise during the year, the Agency may update you by direct mail. The Retirement Agency will always keep you up to date with the latest information about your benefit.

## Dear Retiree:

Beginning this Fall, the State Retirement Agency will only be issuing advice slips at the end of July and January or if there is a change to the amount being received by the retiree or pensioner. This will help reduce printing and postage costs.

Since mandatory direct deposit was instituted, it has worked well and the Agency believes this added change will further benefit our payees.

If you desire, you may access your bank account at your financial institution to ensure the deposit was received on your normal deposit day.

We encourage you to browse the Agency's Web site at [www.sra.state.md.us](http://www.sra.state.md.us) for the latest updates and useful information.

Sincerely,

William Donald Schaefer  
Chairman

Nancy K. Kopp  
Vice Chairman



William Donald  
Schaefer



Nancy K. Kopp

Also in the Fall, the State Retirement Agency is upgrading its automated phone system to provide more service to the members and retirees. Your personal information, such as information previously provided on your advice slip, may be accessed from this new system using your Social Security number and your individual PIN (personal identification number).

The Retirement Agency will provide advance notice to all retirees at

least two months before the regular advice slips will stop and when the new automated phone system will be activated. More information with easy-to-follow instructions for accessing information quickly and conveniently 24 hours a day, seven days a week, by telephone will be provided to each member and retiree in the coming months.

## How employment affects your retirement check

For retirees of the State Retirement and Pension System (SRPS), certain types of employment are subject to an earnings limit. Reemployment rules discussed here apply for most retirees. Special rules apply for retired judges, legislators, State Police and law enforcement officers. Contact the Retirement Agency for details.

### EARNINGS LIMITS

If your compensation from employment after retirement exceeds your earnings limit, your benefit may be reduced. Prior to accepting work with *any* participating employer, you must notify the Retirement Agency in writing of your anticipated earnings.

Your earnings limit is printed on the *Notice of Retirement Allowance* that you received upon retirement.

### WHO IS SUBJECT TO AN EARNINGS LIMIT?

All service retirees, returning to work for the same employer, are subject to an earnings limit. There must be at least **45 days** between your last day on payroll and the date you are rehired by the same employer. All units of Maryland State government, including the University of Maryland, are considered to be one employer.

If a service retiree returns to work for a different employer, only early service retirees within the first 12 months of retirement are subject to an earnings limit.

Most service retirees are exempt from earnings limits after nine full calendar years of retirement (10 years for retired correctional officers).

### SPECIAL EXEMPTION FOR TEACHERS AND PRINCIPALS

A service retiree from the Teachers' Systems is exempt from earnings limits if he or she returns to work for the same employer as a classroom teacher, substitute classroom teacher or teacher mentor in a public school:

- That is not making adequate yearly progress or is a school in need of improvement as defined under the federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLBA) of 2001, or
- Is receiving funds under NCLBA, or
- Provides an alternative education program for adjudicated youths or students who have been expelled, suspended or identified for suspension or expulsion from public school

AND

- Teaches in an area of critical shortage, or a special education class for students with special needs, or a class for students with limited English proficiency, or
- Is hired to teach any subject or class or provide educational services under a special limited provision granted to the superintendent

AND

- Is or has been certified to teach in the state,
- Has verification of satisfactory or better performance in last assignment prior to retirement,
- Has been appointed in accordance with §4-103 of the Education Article, and
- If receiving an early retirement benefit, has been retired at least 12 months.

Earnings limits do not apply to a retiree who was employed as a principal within a certain period before retirement AND is rehired as a principal at a public school meeting the requirements listed here.

During the period of reemployment, the retiree's performance must be satisfactory.

### SPECIAL EXEMPTION FOR HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONERS

Retirees from the Employees' Systems who are receiving a service retirement benefit are exempt from an earnings limit if employed by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene as contractual health care practitioners in certain state facilities or local health departments.

### RULES FOR DISABILITY RETIREES

Ordinary disability retirees who accept employment with a *participating* employer are subject to an earnings limit until they reach normal retirement age for their system. Ordinary disability retirees reemployed by a *non-participating* employer and accidental disability retirees are exempt from earnings limits.

A disability retirees' monthly allowance shall be temporarily suspended if the retiree:

- Retired on or after July 1, 1998,
- Is not eligible to receive a normal service retirement **and**
- Is employed by a participating employer at an annual compensation at least equal to his or her average final compensation at time of retirement.

Note: Retired State Police or law enforcement officers are exempt from the earnings limit and suspension if reemployed by a participating employer in any position other than a probationary status law enforcement officer, a law enforcement officer or chief, as defined in §3-101 of the Public Safety Article.

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